

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF AGING ORGANIZATIONS
SOLUTIONS FORUM
MAY 17, 2005**

Resolution on Long Term Care

- The U.S. should institute a national long term care system based primarily on a social insurance model. The system should provide comprehensive services, including home and community based and institutional services to people with serious physical and cognitive impairments to enable them to carry out activities of daily living and function at an optimum level.
- Any long term care system, including the current Medicaid program that provides long term home and community based services for low income frail older people and people with disabilities, should include a comprehensive and flexible range of benefits in the least restrictive setting possible. Services provided should respect the rights and preferences of the client. The client/consumer should be given maximum choice and control over the delivery of the services, wherever possible and appropriate.
- The current and future long term care system should appropriately recognize the role of the unpaid family caregiver. The system should provide training, counseling, respite, social support services and financial assistance to enable them to carry out their caregiving responsibilities.
- The current and future long term care system should deliver comprehensive services across the lifespan during which people need long term care, including end-of-life care which respects the rights and dignity of the consumer during all phases of illness or disability.
- The long term care system should ensure that adequate and affordable housing along with supportive services is a viable alternative to institutional care.

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Resolution on Medicaid

- Medicaid should be reformed to end the institutional bias which forces older people who need long term care out of their homes.
- Current home and community based service programs should be expanded in Medicaid.
- The Medicaid program and other home and community based long term care service programs should be devoid of any barriers that inhibit consumer choice, control, autonomy and independence.
- The federal and state governments should devote adequate financial resources to the Medicaid program.

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Resolution on the Older Americans Act

- The Older Americans Act network should be the nation's premier advocacy and service delivery system for older people, providing comprehensive services to all eligible older people in need of home and community based services that allow them to remain in their homes and obtain appropriate assistance with activities of daily living.
- The aging network should serve as the one-stop center for the states' long term care service and support system to assist older people to assess their needs and make informed choices about long term care.
- The Older Americans Act should be federally financed with adequate resources to ensure that all eligible older people in the targeted populations (low-income, limited English speaking, etc.) are served. This is crucial in light of the generation of baby boomers that will become eligible for services over the next 10 years.
- The Older Americans Act should be reauthorized in a timely manner and should reaffirm the principles of the OAA in all current and future titles of the Act.

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Resolution on Civil Engagement

- Preserve and enhance the older adult population's integral position in and connection to the community by developing strategies for changing attitudes towards aging and increasing opportunities for volunteerism and other forms of civic engagement.
- Develop federal policies to enable the Corporation for National and Community Service to engage greater participation of older people in community service through recruitment and enrollment in new and existing volunteer programs, including the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and RSVP Programs.
- Seek opportunities to develop federal, state, local and private sector partnerships that provide resources to support older volunteers in the community.